

INDUCTION OF NEURONAL REGENERATION

Background of the Invention

5 The invention relates to neuronal growth and differentiation.

Wnt polypeptides are secreted cysteine-rich glycosylated polypeptides that play a role in the development of a wide range of organisms. The Wnt family of polypeptides contains at least 16 mammalian members which bind to an extracellular domain of a family of cell surface proteins called Frizzled receptors. Wnt polypeptides may play a role in embryonic induction, generation of cell polarity, and specification of cell fate. Deregulation of Wnt signalling has been linked to tumor development.

Summary of the Invention

The invention is based on the discovery that Wnt polypeptides regulate neuronal precursor cell fate, i.e., the type of neuron into which a precursor cell differentiates depends qualitatively on the Wnt signal it receives. For example, Wnt-1 specifies midbrain cell fate. In addition to regulation of cell type, Wnt polypeptides regulate neural precursor state, i.e., proliferation versus differentiation. A stem cell phenotype is characterized by mitotic activity and a lack of characteristics associated with a mature terminally-differentiated neuron, whereas a differentiated phenotype is characterized by a lack of proliferation and acquisition of properties, e.g., morphology or cell surface proteins, associated with a particular terminally-differentiated neural cell type.

The invention features an enriched population of mammalian dorsal neural precursor cells that maintain a stem cell phenotype in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide. By an "enriched population" is meant a population of

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cells that has been treated with a Wnt polypeptide to selectively expand a desired neural precursor cell type. Thus, an enriched population of neural precursor cells is not naturally-occurring, but contains a higher

5 concentration of neural precursor cells having a particular cell fate compared to the concentration in a naturally-occurring population of stem cells.

The Wnt polypeptide is preferably a Wnt-1 class polypeptide such as Wnt-1, Wnt-2, Wnt-3a, Wnt-7a, and
10 Wnt-7b. A Wnt-1 class polypeptide is a Wnt polypeptide that transforms C57MG cells in culture. Other Wnt polypeptides, e.g., Wnt-5a, that play a role in midbrain development may also be used to culture stem cells.

A drawback of conventional stem cell preparations
15 is that they heterogenous, i.e., a precursor cell with a particular cell fate may constitute only a small fraction of the population. The invention solves this problem by providing a method of selecting for a desired precursor cell type, i.e., by contacting the cell with a Wnt
20 polypeptide. For example, the invention provides a method of treating a heterogeneous population of neural cell precursor cells to enrich for neural precursor cells committed to a desired cell fate by culturing the population with a Wnt polypeptide, e.g., a Wnt-1 class
25 polypeptide. Neural precursor cells selectively proliferate in the presence of the Wnt polypeptide, whereas other precursor cells do not proliferate (or proliferate at a rate lower than that of the dorsal neural precursor cells). Thus, repeated culturing of the
30 population in this manner yields a population of neural precursor cells that is progressively more enriched for dorsal neural precursor cells. The enriched population of dorsal neural precursor cells is at least 60%, preferably at least 75%, more preferably at least 80%,
35 more preferably at least 90%, more preferably at least

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95%, more preferably at least 98%, and most preferably 100% dorsal neural precursor cells.

For example, the invention encompasses an enriched population of mammalian dopaminergic neuron precursor cells. Selection of such cells is accomplished by contacting a heterogenous population of precursor cells with a Wnt-1 class polypeptide. The cells may be human or porcine cells and may be derived from fetal tissue. The cells are mitotically-active and maintaining a stem cell phenotype in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide. In the absence of a Wnt polypeptide, the cells cease proliferating and differentiate into dopaminergic neurons. A dopaminergic neuron is one that produces dopamine. Preferably, the Wnt polypeptide is human Wnt-1 or a fragment of Wnt-1 that is capable of stimulating proliferation of such cells and arresting differentiation. Since Wnt polypeptides have mitogenic activity for neural precursor cells, a method of stimulating cell proliferation of a dorsal neural precursor cell is carried out by contacting the cell in culture or *in vivo* with a Wnt-1 polypeptide and/or a Wnt-3a polypeptide. To promote proliferation of mammalian dopaminergic neuron precursor cells, the polypeptide preferably has a sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acid sequence of naturally-occurring human Wnt-1 (SEQ ID NO:1) and has a biological property of naturally-occurring Wnt-1, e.g., the ability to maintain the neural stem cell phenotype of a neural precursor cell in culture.

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Table 1: Human Wnt-1 amino acid sequence

1 MGLWALLPGW VSATLLLLALA ALPAALAANS SGRWWGIVNV ASSTNLLTDS
 KSLQLVLEPS
 61 LQLLSRKQRR LIRQNPGLIH SVSGGLQSAV RECKWQFRNR RWNCPTAPGP
 5 HLFQKIVNRG
 121 CRETAFIFAI TSAGVTHSVA RSCSEGSIES CTCDYRRRGP GGPDWHWGGC
 SDNIDFGRLF
 181 GREFVDSGEK GRDLRFLMNL HNNEAGRTTV FSEMRQECKC HGMSGSCTVR
 TCWMRLPTLR
 10 241 AVGDVLRDRF DGASRVLYGN RGSNRASRAE LLRLEPEDPA HKPPSPHDLV
 YFEKSPNFCT
 301 YSGRLGTAGT AGRACNSSSP ALDGCELLCC GRGHRTRTQR VTERCNCTFH
 WCCHVSCRNC
 361 THTRVLHECL (SEQ ID NO:1)

15 Table 2: Human Wnt-2 amino acid sequence

MNAPLGGIWLWLPLLLTWLTPEVNSSWWMYMRATGGSSSRVMCDNV
 PGLVSSORQLCHRPDMRAISQVAEWTAECQHGFROHRWNCNTLDRDHSLEFGRVLL
 RSSRESAFVYAIISSAGVVFATRACSQGEVKSCSDPKKMGSAKDSKGIFDWGGCSDN
 IDYGIKFARAFVDAKERKKGKDARALMNLHNNRAGRKAVKRFLKQECKCHGVSGSCTLR
 20 TCWLAMADFRKTGDYLWRKYNGAIQVVMNQDGTGFTVANERFKKPTKNDLVYFENSPD
 YCIRDREAGSLGTAGRVCNLTSRGMDSCVEMCCGRGYDTSHVTRMTKCGCKFHWCCAV
 RCQDCLEALDVHTCKAPKNADWTTAT (SEQ ID NO:2)

Where a particular polypeptide or nucleic acid
 molecule is said to have a specific percent identity to a
 25 reference polypeptide or nucleic acid molecule of a
 defined length, the percent identity is relative to the
 reference polypeptide or nucleic acid molecule. Thus, a
 peptide that is 50% identical to a reference polypeptide
 that is 100 amino acids long can be a 50 amino acid
 30 polypeptide that is completely identical to a 50 amino
 acid long portion of the reference polypeptide. It might
 also be a 100 amino acid long polypeptide which is 50%
 identical to the reference polypeptide over its entire
 length. In the case of polypeptide sequences which are
 35 less than 100% identical to a reference sequence, the
 non-identical positions are preferably, but not
 necessarily, conservative substitutions for the reference
 sequence. Conservative substitutions typically include
 substitutions within the following groups: glycine and
 40 alanine; valine, isoleucine, and leucine; aspartic acid
 and glutamic acid; asparagine and glutamine; serine and
 threonine; lysine and arginine; and phenylalanine and
 tyrosine.

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Sequence identity can be measured using sequence analysis software (for example, the Sequence Analysis Software Package of the Genetics Computer Group, University of Wisconsin Biotechnology Center, 1710 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53705), with the default parameters as specified therein.

An enriched population of mammalian dorsal hindbrain precursor cells is also within the invention. Such cells are selected by contacting a heterogeneous population of cells with a mixture of a Wnt-1 polypeptide and a Wnt-3a polypeptide. An enriched population of mitotically-active mammalian hippocampal neuron precursor cells are selected by culturing the cells in the presence of a Wnt-1 class polypeptide such as Wnt-3a; the cells maintain a stem cell phenotype in culture in the presence of a Wnt-3a polypeptide. Such precursor cells cease proliferating and differentiate into hippocampal neurons in the absence of the Wnt-3a polypeptide. Preferably, the Wnt-3a polypeptide has a sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 and has a biological property of naturally-occurring Wnt-3a, e.g., the ability to maintain a neural stem cell phenotype in culture.

Table 3: Murine Wnt-3a amino acid sequence

MAPLGYYLLVLCSLKQALGSYPIWWSLAVGPOYSSLSTQPILCAS
 25 IPGLVPKQLRFCRNYVEIMPSVAEGVKAGIQEQHQFRGRRWNCTTVSNLAIFGPVL
 DKATRESAFVHAIASAGVAFVTRSCAEGSAAICGSSRLQSGPEGWKWGGCSEIDIE
 FGGMVSREFADARENRPDARSAMNRHNNEAGRQAIASHMHLKCKCHGLSGSCEVKTWC
 WSQPDFRTIGDFLKDKYDSASEMVVEKHRESRGWVETLRPRYTYFKVPTERDLVYYEA
 30 SPNFCEPNPETGSFGTRDRTCNVSSHGIDGCDLLCCGRGHNARTERRREKCHCVFHW
 CYVSCQECTRVYDVHTCK (SEQ ID NO:3)

Table 10: Human Wnt-3a amino acid sequence

CKCHGLSGSC EVKTCWWSQP DFRAIGDFLK DKYDSASEMV VEKHRESRGW
 VETLRPRYTY FKVPTERDLV YYEASPNFCE PNPETGSFGT RDRTCNVSSH
 35 GIDGCDLLCC GRGHNARAER RREKCRVCFH WCC (SEQ ID NO:10)

Table 4: Human Wnt-7a amino acid sequence

1 MNRKALRCLG HFLSLGMVC LRIGGFSSVV ALGATIICNK IPGLAPRQRA ICQSRPDAII
 61 VIGEGSOMGL DECQFQFRNG RWNCSALGER TVFGKELKVG SRDGAFTYAI IAAGVAHAIT
 121 AACTHGNLSD CGCDKEKQGG YHRDEGWKVG GCSADIRYGI GFAKVVDAR EIKQNARTLM
 181 NLHNNEAGRK ILEENMKLEC KCHGVSGSCT TKTCWTTLPQ FRELGTVLKD KYNEAVHVEP
 40 241 VRASRNKRPT FLKIKKPLSY RKPMDTLVY IEKSPNYCEE DPVTGSGVGTQ GRACNKTAPO

- 6 -

301 ASGCDLMCCG RGYNTHQYAR VWQCNCCKFHW CCYVKCNTCS ERTEMYTCK

Table 5: Human Wnt-7b partial amino acid sequence

1 GVSGSCTTKT CWTTLPKFRE VGHLLKEKYN AAVQVEVVRA SRLRQPTFLR IKQLRSYQKP
61 METDLVYIEK SPNYCEEDAA TGSVGTQGR I CNRTSPGADG CDTMCCGRGY NTHQYTKVWQ
5 121 CNCK (SEQ ID NO:5)

Table 6: Human Wnt-5a amino acid sequence

1 MAGSAMSSKF FLVALAIFFS FAQVVEANS WWSLGMNPNV QMSEVYIIGA QPLCSQLAGL
61 SOGQKKLCHL YQDHMOYIGE GAKTGIKECQ YQFRHRRWNC STVDNTSVFG RVMQIGSRET
121 AFTYAVSAAG VVNAMSRACR EGELSTCGCS RAARPKDLPR DWLWGGCGDN IDYGYRFAKE
10 181 FVDARERERI HAKGSYESAR ILMNLHNEA GRRTVYNLAD VACKCHGVSG SCSLKTCLWQ
241 LADFRKVGDA LKEKYDSAAA MRLNSRGKLV QVNSRFNSPT TQDLVYIDPS PDYCVRNEST
301 GSLGTQGRLC NKTSEGMDGC ELMCCGRGYD QFKTVQTERC HCKFHWCCYV KCKKCTEIVD
361 QFVCK (SEQ ID NO:6)

Other patterning signals, e.g., Bmp polypeptides
15 or Hedgehog polypeptides, are also used to induce
differentiation of an enriched population of neural
precursor cells into a differentiated neural cell type.

An population of neural precursor cells that is
enriched for a particular type of precursor cell is
20 useful clinically, e.g., to repopulate a depleted
population of a particular type of neuron. Depletion of
subpopulations of neurons may be the result of the
progression of a neurodegenerative disease such as
Parkinson's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis,
25 Diffuse Lewy Body Disease, Cortical-basal Ganglionic
Degeneration, Hallervorden-Spatz Disease, or Myoclonic
Epilepsy. A method of inducing neuronal regeneration in
an adult mammal suffering from a neurodegenerative
disorder is carried out by transplanting into the
30 affected mammal an enriched population of dorsal neural
precursor cells such as that cultured in the presence of
one or more Wnt polypeptides. To promote proliferation
of the transplanted stem cells *in vivo*, the method may
also include a step of administering to the mammal a Wnt
35 polypeptide or Wnt agonist systemically or locally at the
site of transplantation. For example, a patient
suffering from Parkinson's disease is treated by
transplanting into the brain of the patient an enriched

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population of dopaminergic neuron precursor cells. A Wnt-1 polypeptide may be administered concurrently or subsequent to transplantation.

The invention also includes a transgenic non-human mammal, e.g., a rodent such as a mouse, the germ cells and somatic cells of which contain a null mutation, e.g., a deletion, in DNA encoding a Wnt polypeptide. These animals can serve as useful models of neural development. By "null mutation" is meant an alteration in the nucleotide sequence that renders the gene incapable of expressing a functional protein product. The mutation could be in a Wnt gene regulatory region or in the coding sequence. It can, e.g., introduce a stop codon that results in production of a truncated, inactive gene product or it can be a deletion of all or a substantial portion of the coding sequence.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments thereof, and from the claims.

Detailed Description

The invention provides methods of selecting for neural precursor cells that will differentiate into a particular type of neuron upon exposure to a differentiation-inducing condition or composition and methods for growing such precursor cells in culture. The methods permit expansion of precursor cells of a desired cell fate to achieve large number of cells suitable for clinical transplantation.

Neural Stem Cells

Primary neural progenitor cells are obtained from a mammalian source, e.g., fetal CNS precursor tissue such as developing neural crest tissue, using known methods. Such primary cells are cultured in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide such as Wnt-1 class polypeptide (purified from a natural source or produced recombinantly) in

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conventional tissue culture medium such as Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium (DMEM) containing fetal calf serum or in serum-free tissue culture medium.

Wnt polypeptides regulate neuronal precursor cell fate as well as neural precursor state. Wnt polypeptides that belong to the Wnt-1 class of Wnt polypeptides are preferably used to culture neural precursor cells for the purpose of maintaining a stem cell phenotype and promoting proliferation. A Wnt-1 class polypeptide is a Wnt polypeptide and that transforms C57MG cells in culture. To determine whether a Wnt polypeptide is a Wnt-1 class polypeptide, C57MG cells (an epithelial cell line derived from normal mouse mammary tissue) are cultured in the presence and absence of the Wnt polypeptide using known methods, e.g., that described by Wong et al., 1994, Mol. Cell. Biol. 14:6278-6286, and their morphology assessed for a transformed phenotype. Normal C57MG cells grow in a monolayer with a regular, cuboidal appearance at confluence, whereas culturing C57MG cells in the presence of a Wnt-1 class polypeptide causes the cells to become transformed, i.e., refractile and elongated, growing over other cells in a disorganized manner. Wnt polypeptides of the Wnt-1 class cause C57MG cells to assume a transformed phenotype. Human Wnt polypeptides which belong to the Wnt-1 class include Wnt-1 (GENBANK Accession #139743, Wnt-2 (GENBANK Accession #139750), Wnt-3a, Wnt-7a (GENBANK Accession #2501663), and Wnt-7b (GENBANK Accession #546573). A Wnt polypeptide, e.g., human Wnt-5a (GENBANK Accession #731157), that is not a member of the Wnt-1 class may also be used (with or without a Wnt-1 class polypeptide) to culture neural precursor cells.

The cells are cultured in the presence or absence of feeder cells. Feeder cells may be engineered to produce a recombinant Wnt-1 class polypeptide such as

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Wnt-1 and/or Wnt-3a, e.g., by introducing DNA encoding a Wnt polypeptide, e.g., DNA encoding Wnt-1, Wnt-2, Wnt-3a, Wnt-7a or Wnt-7b, into the cell and culturing the cell under conditions that permit expression of the

- 5 recombinant polypeptide and secretion of the polypeptide into the extracellular environment. For example, feeder cells can be transfected with an expression vector containing DNA having the sequence of naturally-occurring Wnt-1, Wnt-2, or Wnt-3a.

10 Table 7: Human Wnt-1 Nucleotide Sequence

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      1 atgtatgtat gtatgtatgt atgtatgtat acgtgcgtgc acctgtgtgt
gcttggtgtc
      61 agtggggctc agacatcacc tgattccctg gaactggagt tacaggtggc
tataagccac
    15 121 cacttgggtg ctgagaacag agtccggggc tctggcagag cagtcagtgc
ttttagccac
      181 tgagccactc tcattccccc aattatgttc atcttgagtt gggcaggtac
ggtggcggaa
      241 taggcctgta atcccagcag tcaactggacc atcatgggtt ctacatatta
    20 aacctttatg
      301 ttaggtaggg tcacacagca agatccggtc acaaaaccag caacaacaaa
aaccaaaagg
      361 agccagcttc tcccacaag cattctttcc ctcaggtctt cagctccatc
tgacagctac
    25 421 tcggctgggtg gtccatcctt ttctgagcct agttgccaga gaaacaagcc
cggttcatct
      481 tcatgactag cacatctaata gataagcaca gggtgactca aggtgccata
gagtgacact
    30 541 aggtaccag agcgacagaa tgacacctat gagtgcacgt cgttaatacac
aaacacacac
      601 acacacacac acacacacac acacacacac tcattgcacc acctgcaaac
acaattgcag
      661 ccttctggac gtctcctgtc acagccccac ctccttcctg atacactgcg
ttaagtgggtg
    35 721 actgtaacaa aatgacttca tgctctccct gtccctgagcc aaattacaca
attatttggg
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ggagcgtgca
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    40 cgcttacact
      901 cccctagcc cacagaggca aactgctggg cgcttctgag tttctcactg
ccaccagctc
      961 ggtttgctca gcctaccccc gcaccccgcg cccgggaatc cctgaccaca
gctccaccca
    45 1021 tgctctgtct cttctttttc cttctctgtc cagccgtcgg gggttcctggg
tgaggaagtg
      1081 tctccacgga gtcgtgggt agaaccacaa ctttcatect gccattcaga
ataggaaga
      1141 gaagagacca cagcgtaggg gggacagagg agacggactt cgagaggaca
    50 gccccaccgg
      1201 cgcgtgtggg ggaggcaatc caggctgcaa acaggttgct cccagcgcgt
tgtcccgcg
      1261 cccctggcg gatgctggtc cccgacgggc tccggacgcg cagaagagtg
aggccggcgc
    55 1321 gcgtgggagg ccattcccaag gggaggggtc ggcggccagt gcagacctgg
aggcggggcc

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1381 accaggcagg gggcgggggg gagccccgac ggtagcctg tcagctcttt
 gctcagaccg
 1441 gcaagagcca cagcttcgct cgccactcat tgtctgtggc cctgaccagt
 gcgccttggg
 5 1501 gcttttagtg ccgcccgggc ccggaggggc agcctcttct cactgcagtc
 agcgccgcaa
 1561 ctataagagg cctataagag gcggtgcctc ccgcagtggc tgcttcagcc
 cagcagccag
 1621 gacagcgaac catgctgcct gcggcccgcc tccagactta ttagagccag
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 gcgctgctgc
 15 1801 ccagctgggt ttctactacg ttgctactgg cactgaccgc tctgcccgca
 gccctggctg
 1861 ccaacagtag tggccgatgg tggtaagtga gctagtacgg ggtccgccac
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 1921 gcaaagagcc aggcacgggc cttaccagc tcccacgctg tggggatcac
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 2521 gccagctctg cagctgctga gccgaagca gcggcgactg atccgacaga
 40 acccggggat
 2581 cctgcacagc gtgagtggag ggctccagag cgctgtgca gagtgc aaat
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 2881 tgagcatgat ctttaacgtt gctggccact ggcccacaga aagggaattc
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 65 3301 cttcgcaatc acctccgcg gggtcacaca ttccgtggcg cgctcctgct
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3361 catcgagtc tgcacctgcg actaccggcg gcgcggccct gggggccccc
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3421 ggggggctgc agtgacaaca tcgattttgg tcgcctcttt ggcgagagat
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5 3481 cggggagaag gggcgggacc tacgcttctt catgaacctt cacaacaacg
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3541 aacggtacgt cgggtgtgtcc ggaaccaatg gcaggggaga tgtaagacag
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15 3781 gacttgctgg cgtggagcag agtctggcgc aatgtcccta tctcagcggg
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65 5281 cttttttctc ttttaccag cttctcatag gcgccttgc ccaccggatc
agtatttctt

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- 12 -

5341 tccactgtag ctattagtgg ctctctgccc ccaccaatgt agtatcttcc
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 5 5461 acgtctctct cccctccaat ggacttgctt ctcttctcat agccaaacaa
 aagagataga
 5521 gttgttgaag atctcttttc cagggcctga gcaaggaccc tgagatcctg
 acccttgat
 5581 gaccctaaat gagaccaact agggatc (SEQ ID NO:7)

10 Table 8: Human Wnt-2 Nucleotide Sequence

1 agcagagcgg acgggcgcgc gggaggcgcg cagagctttc gggctgcagg cgctcgctgc
 61 cgctggggaa ttgggctgtg ggcgaggcgg tccgggctgg cctttatcgc tcgctgggccc
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 15 241 acgcatggcg cccgcacacg gactctgacc tgatgcagac gcaagggggt taatatgaac
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 361 gtcaactctt catgggtgta catgagagct acaggtggct cctccagggt gatgtgcgat
 421 aatgtgccag gctgggtgag cagccagcgg cagctgtgtc accgacatcc agatgtgatg
 481 cgtgccatta gccaggcggt ggcgagtggt acagcagaat gccagcacca gtcccgccag
 20 541 caccgctgga attgcaacac cctggacagg gatcacagcc tttttggcag ggtcctactc
 601 cgaagtagtc ggaatctgc ctttgtttat gccatctcct cagctggagt tgtatttgcc
 661 atcaccaggg cctgtagcca aggagaagta aaatcctgtt cctgtgatcc aaagaagatg
 721 ggaagcgcca aggcagcaca aggcattttt gattgggggt gctgcagtga taacattgac
 781 tatgggatca aatttgcccg cgcattttgt gatgcaaagg aaaggaaagg aaaggatgcc
 25 841 agagccctga tgaattctca caacaacaga gctggcagga aggctgtaaa gcggttcttg
 901 aaacaagagt gcaagtgcga cgggggtgagc ggctcatgta ctctcaggac atgctggctg
 961 gccatggcgg acttcaggaa aacggggcgt tatctctgga ggaagtacaa tggggccatc
 1021 caggtgggtca tgaaccagga tggcacaggt ttactgtggt ctaacgagag gtttaagaag
 1081 ccaacgaaaa atgacctcgt gtattttgag aattctccag actactgtat cagggaccga
 30 1141 gaggcaggct ccctgggtac agcaggccgt gtgtgcaacc tgacttcccg gggcatggac
 1201 agctgtgaag tcactgtgctg tgggagaggc tacgacacct cccatgtcac ccggtgacc
 1261 aagtgtgggt gtaagtcca ctggtgctgc gccgtgcgt gtcaggagct cctggaagct
 1321 ctggatgtgc acacatgcaa ggcccccaag aacgctgact ggacaaccgc tacatgacct
 1381 cagcaggcgt caccatccac cttcccttct acaaggactc cattggatct gcaagaacac
 35 1441 tggacctttg ggttctttct ggggggatat ttctaagc atgtggcctt tatctcaacg
 1501 gaagcccccct cttcctccct gggggcccga ggatgggggg ccacacgctg cacctaaagc
 1561 ctaccctatt ctatccatct cctgggtgtc tgcagtcac tcccctcctg gcgagttctc
 1621 tttggaaata gcatgacagg ctgttcagcc gggagggtgg tgggcccaga ccactgtctc
 1681 caccacactt gacgtttctt cttctagag cagttggcca agcagaaaaa aagatgtctc
 40 1741 aaaggagctt tctcaatgtc ttcccacaaa tgggtccaat taagaaattc catacttctc
 1801 tcagatggaa cagtaaagaa agcagaatca actgcccctg acttaacttt aacttttgaa
 1861 aagaccaaga cttttgtctg tacaagtggc ttacagcta ccacccttag ggtaattggc
 1921 aattacctgg agaagaatgg ctttcaatac ccttttaagt ttaaaatgtg tatttttcaa
 1981 ggcattttatt gccatattaa aatctgatgt aacaagggtg ggacgtgtgt cctttggtac
 45 2041 tatgggtgtg tgtatctttg taagagcaaa agcctcagaa agggattgct ttgcattact
 2101 gtccccctga tataaaaaat ctttagggaa tgagagttcc ttctcactta gaatctgaag
 2161 ggaattaaaa agaagatgaa tggctggcga atattctgta actattgggt gaatatgggtg
 2221 gaaaataatt tagtggatgg aatatcagaa gtatatctgt acagatcaag aaaaaagga
 2281 agaataaaat tctatatca t (SEQ ID NO:8)

50 Table 9: Murine Wnt-3A Nucleotide Sequence

1 gaattcatgt cttacggcca aggcagaggg cccagcgcga ctgcagccgc
 gccacctccc
 61 agggccgggc cagcccaggc gtcgcgcctc tcgggggtgga ctccccccgc
 55 tgcgcgctca
 121 agccggcgat ggctcctctc ggatacctct tagtgctctg cagcctgaag
 caggctctgg
 181 gcagctaccc gatctgggtg tcttggctg tgggacccca gtactcctct
 ctgagcactc
 60 241 agcccattct ctgtgccagc atcccaggcc tgggtaccga gcagctgcgc
 ttctgcagga

- 13 -

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        301 actacgtgga gatcatgccc agcgtggctg aggggtgtcaa agcggggcatc
caggagtgcc
        361 agcaccagtt ccgaggccgg cgttggaact gcaccaccgt cagcaacagc
ctggccatct
5      421 ttggccctgt tctggacaaa gccaccggg agtcagcctt tgtccatgcc
atcgccctccg
        481 ctggagtagc ttctcgagtg acacgctcct gtgcagaggg atcagctgct
atctgtgggt
        541 gcagcagccg cctccagggc tccccaggcg agggctggaa gtggggcggc
10    tgtagtgagg
        601 acattgaatt tggaggaatg gtctctcggg agtttgccga tgcaggggag
aaccggccgg
        661 atgcccgctc tgccatgaac cgtcacaaca atgaggtctg gcgccaggcc
atcgccagtc
15    721 acatgcacct caagtcaaaa tgccacgggc tatctggcag ctgtgaagtg
aagacctgct
        781 ggtggtcgca gccggacttc cgcaccatcg gggatttctt caaggacaag
tatgacagtg
        841 cctcggagat ggtggtagag aaacaccgag agtctcgtgg ctgggtggag
20    accctgaggc
        901 cacgttacac gtacttcaag gtgccgacag aacgcgacct ggtctactac
gaggcctcac
        961 ccaacttctg cgaacctaac cccgaaaccg gctccttcgg gacgcgtgac
cgcacctgca
25    1021 atgtgagctc gcatggcata gatgggtgcg acctgtttgt ctgcgggcgc
gggcataaacg
        1081 cgcgcactga gcgacggagg gagaaatgcc actgtgtttt ccattgggtgc
tgctacgtca
        1141 gctgccagga gtgcacagct gtctatgacg tgcacacctg caagtaggag
30    agctcctaac
        1201 acgggagcag ggttcattcc gaggggcaag gttcctacct gggggcgggg
ttcctacttg
        1261 gaggggtctc ttacttgggg actcggttct tacttgaggg cggagatcct
acctgtgagg
35    1321 gtctcatacc taaggaccgc gtttctgcct tcagcctggg ctctatttg
ggatctgggt
        1381 tcttttttag gggagaagct cctgtctggg atacggggtt ctgcccaggg
gtggggctcc
        1441 acctggggat ggaattccaa tttgggcccg aagtcctacc tcaatggctt
40    ggactcctct
        1501 cttgaccoga cagggtcaa atggagacag gtaagctact cctcaacta
gggtggggttc
        1561 gtgcggatgg gtgggagggg agagattagg gtccctctc ccagaggcac
tgctctatct
45    1621 agatacatga gagggtgctt cagggtgggc cctatattggg cttgaggatc
ccgtgggggc
        1681 ggggcttcac cccgactggg tggaactttt ggagacccc ttccactggg
gcaaggcttc
        1741 actgaagact catgggatgg agctccacgg aaggaggagt tctgagcga
50    gcctgggctc
        1801 tgagcaggcc atccagctcc catctggccc ctttccagtc ctggtgtaag
gttcaacctg
        1861 caagcctcat ctgcgcagag caggatctcc tggcagaatg aggcattggag
aagaactcag
55    1921 gggtgatacc aagacctaac aaaccccggt cctgggtacc tcttttaaag
ctctgcaccc
        1981 cttcttcaag ggctttccta gtctccttgg cagagctttc ctgaggaaga
tttgagtc
        2041 cccagagttc aagtgaacac ccatagaaca gaacagactc tatcctgagt
60    agagaggggt
        2101 ctctaggaat ctctatgggg actgctagga aggatcctgg gcatgacagc
ctcgtatgat
        2161 agcctgcac cgtctcgaca cttaatactc agatctccc ggaacccag
ctcatccggt
65    2221 ccgtgatgtc catgccccaa atgcctcaga gatgttgctt cactttgagt
tgtatgaact

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2281 tcggagacat ggggacacag tcaagccgca gagccagggt tgtttcagga
cccatctgat
2341 tccccagagc ctgctgttga ggcaatggtc accagatccg ttggccacca
ccctgtcccg
5 2401 agcttctcta gtgtctgtct ggccctggaag tgagggtgcta catacagccc
atctgccaca
2461 agagcttctt gatttggtacc actgtgaacc gtccctcccc ctccagacag
gggaggggat
10 2521 gtggccatac aggagtgtgc ccggagagcg cggaaagagg aagagagggt
gcacacgcgt
2581 ggtgactgac tgtcttctgc ctggaacttt gcgttcgcgc ttgtaacttt
atcttcaatg
2641 ctgctatata caccaccac tggatttaga caaaagtgat tttctttttt
tttttttctt
15 2701 ttctttctat gaaagaaatt attttagttt atagtatggt tgtttcaaat
aatggggaaa
2761 gtaaaaagag agaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaaaa aaaaaaaa aaaa
(SEQ ID NO:9)

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Table 11: Human Wnt-3a nucleotide sequence

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20  tgtaagtgcc acgggctgtc gggcagctgc gaggtgaaga catgctgggt
gtcgcaaccc gacttccgcg ccatcggtga ctctctcaag gacaagtacg
acagcgctc ggagatgggt gtggagaagc accgggagtc ccgcggctgg
gtggagaccc tgcggccgcg ctacacctac ttcaagggtc ccacggagcg
25  cgacctggtc tactacgagg cctcgcccaa cttctgcgag cccaacctg
agacgggctc cttcggcacg cgcgaccgca cctgcaacgt cagctcgcac
ggcatcgacg gctgcgacct gctgtgctgc ggccgcggcc acaacgcgcg
agcggagcgg cgccgggaga agtgccgctg cgtgtttcac tgggtgctgt
(SEQ ID NO:11)

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Stem cells may be obtained from a a heterologous

30 donor animal such as a pig. The animal is euthanized and tissue removed using a sterile procedure. Brain areas of particular interest include any area from which progenitor cells can be obtained which will serve to restore function to a degenerated area of the host's

35 brain. These regions include areas of the CNS including the cerebral cortex, cerebellum, midbrain, brainstem, spinal cord and ventricular tissue, and areas of the peripheral nervous system (PNS) including the carotid body and the adrenal medulla. For example, cells may be

40 obtained from the basal ganglia, preferably the striatum which consists of the caudate and putamen, or various cell groups such as the globus pallidus, the subthalamic nucleus, or the substantia nigra pars compacta (which is found to be degenerated in Parkinson's Disease patients).

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Human heterologous neural progenitor cells may be derived from fetal tissue obtained from elective abortion, or from a post-natal, juvenile or adult organ donor. Autologous neural tissue can be obtained by
5 biopsy, or from patients undergoing neurosurgery in which neural tissue is removed, in particular during epilepsy surgery, and more particularly during temporal lobectomies and hippocampalectomies.

Cells can be obtained from donor tissue by
10 dissociation of individual cells from the connecting extracellular matrix of the tissue. Dissociation can be obtained using any known procedure, including treatment with enzymes, e.g., trypsin or collagenase, or by using physical methods of dissociation such as with a blunt
15 instrument. Dissociation of fetal cells can be carried out in tissue culture medium, while a preferable medium for dissociation of juvenile and adult cells is artificial cerebral spinal fluid (aCSF). Regular aCSF contains 124 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 1.3 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM CaCl₂,
20 26 mM NaHCO₃, and 10 mM D-glucose. Low Ca²⁺ aCSF contains the same ingredients except for MgCl₂ at a concentration of 3.2 mM and CaCl₂ at a concentration of 0.1 mM.

Dissociated cells can be placed into any culture medium capable of supporting cell growth, including MEM,
25 DMEM, RPMI, F-12. The medium may containin supplements which support cellular metabolism such as glutamine and other amino acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins such as transferrin. In some cases, the medium may contain bovine, equine, chicken or human serum. A preferable
30 medium for neural precursor cells is a mixture of DMEM and F-12. Conditions for culturing mimic physiological conditions, e.g., physiological pH, preferably between pH 6-8, more preferably close to pH 7, even more particularly about pH 7.4 at a temperature that is at or
35 close to physiological temperature.

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Cells can be grown in suspension or on a fixed substrate, but proliferation of the precursor cells is preferably done in suspension to generate large numbers of cells by formation of "neurospheres" (see, for
5 example, Reynolds et al., 1992, Science 255:1070-1709; and PCT Publications WO93/01275, WO94/09119, WO94/10292, and WO94/16718). Cell suspensions in culture medium are supplemented with any growth factor which allows for the proliferation of precursor cells and seeded in any
10 receptacle capable of sustaining cells, preferably in culture flasks or roller bottles. Cells typically proliferate within 3-4 days in a 37°C incubator, and proliferation can be reinitiated at any time after that by dissociation of the cells and resuspension in fresh
15 medium containing growth factors.

In the absence of substrate, cells lift off the floor of the flask and continue to proliferate in suspension forming a hollow sphere of undifferentiated cells. After approximately 3-10 days *in vitro*, the
20 proliferating clusters (neurospheres) are fed every 2-7 days, and more particularly every 2-4 days by gentle centrifugation and resuspension in medium containing a Wnt polypeptide or a growth factor.

After 6-7 days *in vitro*, individual cells in the
25 neurospheres can be separated by physical dissociation of the neurospheres with a blunt instrument, more particularly by titrating the neurospheres with a pipette. Single cells from the dissociated neurospheres are suspended in culture medium containing growth
30 factors, and differentiation of the cells can be induced by plating (or resuspending) the cells in the presence of a Wnt agonist, and (optionally) any other factor capable of inducing and/or sustaining differentiation.

The tissue culture media is supplemented with a
35 Wnt polypeptide (either by adding a Wnt polypeptide to

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the culture media or by adding feeder cells producing a Wnt polypeptide) to maintain a stem cell phenotype of the precursor cells and to promote proliferation of the cells. Other commercially available growth factors such as Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF) or Epidermal Growth Factor (EGF) are added to the culture as mitogens.

Cells cultured in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide, e.g., a member of the Wnt-1 class of polypeptides, proliferate and maintain a stem cell phenotype. Differentiation of the cells can proceed upon the removal of the Wnt polypeptide and/or addition of a composition that promotes differentiation.

A naturally-occurring population of neural crest cells contains multipotent (i.e., uncommitted) neural crest cells and committed precursor cells. The role of Wnt proteins employed in the present method is to culture a population of neural precursor cells, e.g., a naturally-occurring population of neural crest cells, (1) to induce cell fate of an uncommitted precursor and thereby give rise to a committed precursor cell and (2) to maintain such cells in a stem cell state (e.g., to arrest the development of a committed precursor cell towards becoming a terminally-differentiated neuronal cell). For example, the present method can be used in vitro to induce and/or maintain the differentiation of neural crest cells into glial cells, schwann cells, chromaffin cells, cholinergic sympathetic or parasympathetic neurons, as well as peptidergic and serotonergic neurons. The Wnt protein can be used alone, or can be used in combination with other neurotrophic factors which act to more particularly enhance a particular differentiation fate of the neuronal precursor cell. In the later instance, an Wnt polypeptide might be viewed as ensuring that the treated cell has achieved a particular phenotypic state such that the cell is poised

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along a certain developmental pathway so as to be properly induced upon contact with a secondary neurotrophic factor. Even relatively undifferentiated stem cells or primitive neuroblasts can be maintained in
5 culture and caused to differentiate by treatment with Wnt agonists. Exemplary primitive cell cultures comprise cells harvested from the neural plate or neural tube of an embryo.

A population of neural precursor cells is
10 characterized as having a stem cell phenotype when the level of proliferation of the cells in standard tissue culture media (e.g., MEM, DMEM, RPMI, F-12) in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide is at least 20% greater than the level of proliferation in the same tissue
15 culture media without the Wnt polypeptide. Preferably, the level of cell proliferation is at least 50% greater in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide compared to the level of proliferation in the absence of a Wnt polypeptide. Proliferation is measured using known
20 methods, e.g., incorporation of tritiated thymidine. Neural cells with a differentiated phenotype are characterized as non-proliferating and having the physical characteristics and cell markers of a mature terminally-differentiated neuron.

25 Primary stem cells may be immortalized by a variety of known techniques such as retrovirus-mediated transduction of an immortalizing gene, e.g., avian *myc* (*v-myc*).

Graft preparation

30 The therapeutic methods of the invention which utilize enriched populations of neural precursor cells may be used to treat neurodegenerative diseases and other types of diseases that result in depletion of neural cells. In addition to chronic depletion associated with
35 progressive neurodegenerative diseases, neurons may be

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killed as a consequence of infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases, and immunodeficiency diseases. Clinical outcome of treatment can be assessed by measuring as motor and cognitive capabilities of the patient, length of patient survival, quality of life.

Precursor cells cultured in the presence of a Wnt polypeptide as described above are washed and resuspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, e.g., a solution of 0.6% glucose-saline, are transplanted into brain tissue of a recipient mammal using known methods, e.g., those described by Gage et al., 1987, Ciba Found. Symp. 126:143-159. A small volume of a cell suspension is stereotactically injected into a desired region, e.g., the hippocampus, of a mammal. For example, approximately 10^6 cells are infused into a desired location of the brain of the patient over 30 min.

Subsequent to transplantation, a Wnt polypeptide may be administered to the patient to induce further proliferation of stem cell in vivo. Wnt polypeptides can be administered in the form of a nerve prostheses for the repair of central and peripheral nerve damage. In particular, where a crushed or severed axon is intubulated by use of a prosthetic device, Wnt polypeptides can be added to the prosthetic device to increase the rate of growth and regeneration of the dendritic processes.

Alternatively, prior to transplantation, the cells may be exposed to a composition that induces differentiation Treatment of neurodegenerative disease

Neurodegenerative diseases include familial and sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (FALS and ALS, respectively), familial and sporadic Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, familial and sporadic Alzheimer's disease, olivopontocerebellar atrophy, multiple system atrophy, progressive supranuclear palsy, diffuse lewy

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body disease, corticodentatonigral degeneration, progressive familial myoclonic epilepsy, strionigral degeneration, torsion dystonia, familial tremor, gilles de la tourette syndrome, and Hallervorden-Spatz disease.

5 Most of the diseases are typified by onset during the middle adult years and lead to rapid degeneration of specific subsets of neurons within the neural system, ultimately resulting in premature death. There is no known cure nor is there an effective therapy to slow the
10 progression for any of the listed diseases.

Parkinson's disease (paralysis agitans) is a common neurodegenerative disorder which appears in mid to late life. Familial and sporadic cases occur, although
15 familial cases account for only 1-2 percent of the observed cases. The neurological changes which cause this disease are somewhat variable and not fully understood. Patients frequently have nerve cell loss with reactive gliosis and Lewy bodies in the substantia nigra and locus coeruleus of the brain stem. Similar
20 changes are observed in the nucleus basalis of Meynert. Nigrostriatal dopaminergic neurons are most affected.

The disorder generally develops asymmetrically with tremors in one hand or leg and progresses into symmetrical loss of voluntary movement. Eventually, the
25 patient becomes incapacitated by rigidity and tremors. In the advanced stages the disease is frequently accompanied by dementia.

Diagnosis of both familial and sporadic cases of Parkinson's disease can only be made after the onset of
30 the disease. Anticholinergic compounds, propranolol, primidone and levodopa are frequently administered to modify neural transmissions and thereby suppress the symptoms of the disease, though there is no known therapy which halts or slows the underlying progression. The
35 therapeutic methods described herein may be administered

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in conjunction with existing therapeutic approaches to neurodegenerative diseases.

The death of the dopaminergic neurons in the basal ganglia is an underlying defect of this progressive chronic disease as the basal ganglia are involved in the control of voluntary movements. Wnt-polypeptides and neural precursor cells cultured in the presence of Wnt polypeptides, e.g., Wnt-1, are useful in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and other disorders of midbrain dopamine circuitry. Transplantation of dopaminergic neural precursor cells is used to repopulate a patient's depleted population of dopaminergic neurons to treat or ameliorate the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Another neurodegenerative disease, Alzheimer's disease, can take two forms: disease exist: presenile dementia, in which the symptoms emerge during middle age, and senile dementia which occurs in the elderly. Both forms of the disease appear to have the same pathology. Diseases which affect learning and memory may be characterized by a depletion of hippocampal cells. Transplantation of hippocampal neural precursor cell is used to repopulate a patient's depleted population of hippocampal neurons to treat neurodegenerative diseases that affect learning and memory such as Alzheimer's disease.

Example 1: Wnt Signaling and Proliferation

Wnt signalling was found to regulate the expansion of dorsal neural precursors. Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a are coexpressed at the dorsal midline of the developing neural tube. Wnt-1 is involved in midbrain patterning, and Wnt-3a is involved in the formation of the paraxial mesoderm. The absence of a dorsal neural tube phenotype in animals with a mutation in either gene suggested that Wnt signalling is redundant. The data described below indicate that in the absence of both Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a,

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there is a marked deficiency in neural crest derivatives, which originate from the dorsal neural tube, and a pronounced reduction in dorsolateral precursors within the neural tube itself.

5 Mice lacking both Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a signaling were generated. Mice which are heterozygous for null alleles of Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a were made using known methods (e.g., McMahon et al., 1990, Cell 62:1073-1085 and Takada et
10 al., 1994, Genes Dev. 8:174-189). Compound heterozygotes (on a predominantly 129/Sv background) were intercrossed to recover compound mutants. Genotypes were confirmed by genomic Southern hybridization and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Whole mount immunostaining was carried
15 out using antibodies specific for neurofilaments, CRABP-1, and Lmx-1b. Skeletons from 18.5 d.p.c embryos were prepared and stained with alcian blue and alizarin red using known methods.

To evaluate cell proliferation and death, embryos were collected at 9.5 d.p.c (20-25 somite stage
20 development) after intraperitoneal injection of pregnant females with 50 μ g per body weight of 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (BrdU). Mice were killed one hour later. Embryos were fixed overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) at 4°C. After
25 dehydration, wax embedding and sectioning at a thickness of 6 μ m, serial sections were dewaxed and either stained with haematoxylin and eosin, or assayed for BrdU incorporation for apoptotic death using a standard TUNEL procedure.

30 Compound homozygotes were recovered at the expected Mendelian frequency (51 compound homozygotes in 673 embryos. The frequency was close to the expected frequency of 1/16) between 9.0 and 10.5 days post coitum (d.p.c.). Due to the termination of caudal axial
35 development accompanying the loss of Wnt-3a activity,

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relatively few of these embryos survived to 18.5 d.p.c.
(3 compound homozygotes in 151 embryos).

To assess the development of the dorsal neural tube in compound mutants, neural crest derived structures were examined. Neural crest cells are among the first differentiated cell types to be formed by dorsal neural precursors. Neurofilament staining indicated that both neural crest derived cranial and spinal ganglia formation were unaltered in single mutants (either Wnt-1 or Wnt-3a mutants) which were either wild type or heterozygous for mutations in the other Wnt member. However, in double mutants, neurons derived from the proximal ganglion of cranial nerve IX (glossopharyngeal), which is formed by crest cells originating from rhombomere 6 within the hindbrain (r6), were absent. In contrast, the distal ganglion which is placodal in origin was present. In addition, there was a marked reduction in the proximal axons of cranial nerves V (trigeminal, r2 derived) and X (vagus, r7 derived). Similarly, in the trunk, there was a reduction in neurofilament staining in the cervical dorsal root ganglia. Further, cell counts indicated a 60% decrease in the cellular content of the dorsal root ganglia. Whole-mount *in situ* hybridization with probes specific for *Islet-1* and *cadherin-6*, markers of neuronal and glial neural crest derivatives, respectively, confirmed the reduction or absence of crest cells within the cranial ganglia and dorsal root ganglia. In contrast sympathetic ganglia, which express *c-ret*, were unaffected.

The reduction of neurogenic and gliogenic crest derivatives in the caudal head and rostral trunk regions indicates that fewer neural crest cells emerge in embryos lacking both Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a signaling. The issue of neural crest formation was evaluated by examining CRABP-1 immunoreactivity and AP-2 transcription. CRABP-1 is

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normally present in the dorsal CNS at 9.0 d.p.c. as well as in migrating neural crest cells arising from r2, 4 and 6. AP-2 is first expressed at 8.5 d.p.c. in the dorsal neural plate, coincident with neural crest formation. By 5 9.5 d.p.c. cranial expression is absent in the neural tube but persists in migrating and maturing neural crest derivatives at cranial and spinal cord levels. Loss of function studies have demonstrated that AP-2 is essential for development of neural crest derived structures. A 10 clear decrease was observed in migrating CRABP-1 positive cells within the hindbrain, although CRABP-1 staining within the CNS appeared to be relatively normal. Similarly, examination of AP-2 expression revealed a reduction in both cranial and trunk neural crest. In 15 contrast to their wild type litter mates, double mutants also retained AP-2 expression within the dorsal CNS at 9.5 d.p.c. Thus, in the absence of Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a, there is both a reduction in neural crest cell formation and persistent expression of AP-2 at the dorsal midline. 20 To determine whether Wnt-signaling was required throughout the period of cranial crest formation, expression of TRP-2 was evaluated. TRP-2 is a marker of presumptive melanocytes which are dominant in late formed cranial crest derivatives. At 11.5 d.p.c., TRP-2 25 expression was virtually absent within presumptive melanocytes migrating within the hindbrain region of double mutants though a few TRP-2 cells remained at the dorsal midline. In view of the prolonged expression of AP-2 within the dorsal CNS, TRP-2 expressing cells may be 30 differentiating at a later stage, or they may be retained at the midline because Wnt-signaling promotes neural crest migration. Neither CRABP-1, TRP-2 or AP-2 expression was altered in the forebrain indicating that there is regional specificity in the requirement for 35 these Wnt-signals.

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Much of the head skeleton is generated by cranial neural crest. Distinct skeletal elements are derived from neural crest cells which emerge from different regions of the brain. To determine whether the reduction in neural crest formation in double mutants leads to alterations in the skeleton, 18.5 d.p.c. embryos were stained with alcian blue and alizarin red to examine cartilage and bone development. The stapes and the main body of the hyoid bone including the greater horn which originate from crest cells derived from r3-5 and r6-7, respectively, were absent. Thyroid cartilage showed a consistent dysmorphology. The reduction in hindbrain crest formation was also reflected in the absence of specific skeletal derivatives. In contrast, despite the early loss of forebrain, midbrain and rostral hindbrain in double mutants, the development of skeletal crest derivatives from these regions, as well as non-crest derived bones, was largely normal though there was some reduction in development of the squamosal, alisphenoid, basisphenoid, presphenoid and otic capsule. These data indicate that, in the absence of Wnt-1/3a signaling, several neural crest cell fates form, but there is a dramatic reduction in neural crest derivatives in the hindbrain region and in the spinal cord.

Neural crest cell development, and other aspects of dorsal polarity within the developing CNS, are thought to be regulated by BMP signals produced initially by the dorsal ectoderm and subsequently by the dorsal CNS. BMP-7 expression was induced, as expected, in the roof plate of double mutants. The data indicate that it was unlikely that defective neural crest development resulted from a secondary loss of BMP-signaling within the dorsal neural tube.

To determine whether Wnt-signaling directly regulates dorso-ventral polarity within the CNS, the

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distribution of a number of regionally expressed markers was examined. Whereas spinal cord levels appeared normal, the hindbrain displayed a striking phenotype. Expression of Wnt-3a, Wnt-1 and Lmx-1b was normal in the
5 roof plate. Thus, unlike other aspects of Wnt-signaling in the mammalian embryo, these Wnt-expressing cells did appear to require the Wnt-signals they produce. In contrast, expression of Math1 (which is activated at 9.5 d.p.c. in cells immediately adjacent to the roof plate)
10 and Pax-3 (which occupies most of the dorsal half of the CNS) were dramatically reduced in the double mutant hindbrain. Dbx expression at the dorsal-ventral interface and Pax-6 expression in the ventro-lateral CNS were normal.

15 The data indicate that in the hindbrain, Wnt-signaling does not appear to play a role directly in the primary patterning processes which lead to the establishment of distinct cell fates in appropriate positions along the dorsoventral axis. Rather, it
20 appears to play an essential role in the subsequent expansion of dorso-lateral neural progenitors. In support of a potential role in neural proliferation, transgenic analysis demonstrated that Wnt-1 can act as a potent mitogen when ectopically expressed within the
25 dorsal CNS.

In normal development there is a ventral to dorsal progression in the formation of different neural crest derivatives. In the double mutants, the most severely affected crest derivatives were more proximal (dorsally
30 located) structures. The stapes was absent from the second branchial arch while the lesser horn of the hyoid was unaltered, and in the trunk, dorsal root ganglia were markedly reduced while the sympathetic ganglia appeared normal. If the signals governing commitment to neural
35 crest cell fates were unperturbed in the double mutant,

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but renewal of a multipotential dorsal neural progenitor pool required Wnt-signals, the expected result would be a loss of later forming neural crest derivatives in Wnt-1/-3a mutants, as precursors within the neural tube became
5 limiting.

Cell proliferation and cell death in hindbrain tissue sections (9.5 d.p.c; 20-25 somites) were analyzed using BrdU incorporation and TUNEL staining, respectively.

10 Dorsal neural precursors were reduced, but no discernible change was detected in either proliferation or cell death within remaining dorsal regions of Wnt-1 and Wnt-3a mutants. As these two Wnts are first coexpressed at the otic level when the first neural crest cells appear (at
15 about 8.5 d.p.c; 8-10 somites), it is likely that the main reduction in dorsolateral neural precursors occurs between 8.5 and 9.5 d.p.c.

These data indicate that Wnt signalling regulates dorsoventral patterning in the mammalian CNS through the
20 control of cell proliferation.

Example 2: Wnt-3A Signaling in Neuronal Differentiation

Wnt-3a expression in the mouse begins in the primitive streak region of the late egg cylinder at 7.5 d.p.c. and is maintained in the tail bud until tail
25 formation is complete. To determine which cell types in the primitive streak region express Wnt-3a, the expression of Wnt-3a transcripts was examined in wild type embryos at the 7 somite stage. Expression was detected in the ectoderm layer in the primitive streak
30 region but was absent from the node. Expression was further restricted for ventrally located cells in the anterior streak region. In contrast, in the posterior streak, most cells in the ectoderm layer expressed Wnt-3a. Wnt-3a expression was not observed in migrating
35 mesodermal cells at either anterior or posterior

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positions. These data indicate that Wnt-3a expression is localized to the primitive ectoderm prior to the physical segregation of the paraxial mesoderm and is downregulated as cells ingress through the primitive streak.

5 The phenotype of Wnt-3a homozygous mutant embryos was analyzed at early somite stages. At the 5 somite stage, no obvious differences in morphology between wild type and Wnt-3a mutant embryos were detected. However, by the 7 somite stage, differences in the shape of the
10 primitive streak region were apparent. In Wnt-3a mutants, the width of the primitive streak region is narrower than in the wild type embryos and this phenotype becomes more pronounced by the 10 somite stage.

 To further investigate the abnormal morphology of
15 mutant embryo, histological analysis of the sections was carried out. In wild type embryos at the 7 somite stage, migrating presomitic mesodermal cells were observed under the primitive ectoderm layer in the primitive streak region. However, in Wnt-3a mutant embryos at the same
20 stage, no migrating presomitic mesoderm cells were observed; in contrast, the shape and movement of cells ingressed through the primitive streak are quite different from those in normal embryos. In the anterior streak region of the mutant embryos, the ingressing cells
25 were round in appearance, quite distinct from the usual stellate mesenchymal morphology of the ingressing mesoderm. Furthermore, these cells contacted each other and formed an ectopic tubular structure under the primitive streak at more posterior level. This tubular
30 structure was not observed anterior to the streak where somites are present. Thus, in Wnt-3a mutant embryos, the absence of somite precursors appears to be correlated with the appearance of an ectopic tubular structure arising in the primitive streak region.

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To identify the molecular characteristics of the ectopic tubular structure in Wnt-3a mutant embryos, *in situ* hybridization and whole mount immunostaining and the expression of a variety of molecular markers detected.

5 MF-1, encodes a forkhead domain containing protein, which is normally expressed in somites, presomitic mesoderm, and lateral mesoderm at 9.5 d.p.c. In Wnt-3a mutant embryos at this stage, no obvious MF-I expression was observed in the position where the ectopic
10 tube was formed posterior to the forelimb level. A transverse section of the stained embryo at this axial level clearly indicated that no MF-1 transcripts were localized in the ectopic tube. Similarly another paraxial mesoderm marker, Mox-1, was not expressed in the
15 ectopic tube in Wnt-3a mutants at either 8.5 or 9.5 d.p.c. The data indicate that the ectopic tube does not have the molecular and morphological characteristics of paraxial mesoderm.

Mash-I is normally expressed in central nervous
20 system and peripheral nervous system precursors at 9.5 d.p.c. but not in the mesoderm. In Wnt-3a mutant embryos at the same stage, *Mash-1* expression was detected not only in these region but also in the region ventral to the original neural tube posterior to the forelimb level.
25 A transverse section of Wnt-3a mutants at the axial level, where abnormal Mash-7 expression was observed, indicated that the ventral expression of Mash-I was localized in the ectopic tube. A second neural marker, HES-5, which is normally expressed in CNS, was also
30 expressed in the ectopic tube in Wnt-3a mutants at 9.5 d.p.c. To explore further whether neurons differentiate in the ectopic tube, Wnt-3a mutant embryos at 10.5 d.p.c. were immunostained with antineurofilament antibody, 2H3. Neurofilament expressing cells were present in both the
35 dorsal neural tube and the ectopic ventral tube.

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The ectopic tube also exhibited polarity typical of CNS tissue. For example, Sonic hedgehog (Shh) is normally expressed in the floor plate of the neural tube. In 9.5 d.p.c. Wnt-3a mutant embryos, the notochord was
5 present under the ventral ectopic tubular structure but not under the original neural tube at the axial level just posterior to the forelimbs while no notochord was absorbed at more posterior levels. Shh was expressed in ventrally in the ectopic tube where it contacts the
10 notochord, suggesting, that the ectopic tube forms a floor plate in response to a Shh signaling by the notochord. The ectopic neural tube also exhibits dorsal polarity typical of the CNS such as the expression of the dorsal midline marker, Wnt-1 and increased levels of Pax-
15 3 expression, where the tube contacts the surface ectoderm. In addition, expression of a ventral CNS marker, Pax-6, was suppressed where the ectopic tube contacts the surface ectoderm. Taken together, the data indicate that the ectopic tubular structure in the
20 mutants has the molecular and cellular characteristics of an ectopic neural tube and consequently the loss of Wnt-3a signaling results in the formation of CNS precursors at the expense of paraxial mesoderm.

The phenotype of Wnt-3a knock out mutant embryos
25 at 9.5 d.p.c. indicated that Wnt-3a is essential for formation of somitic mesoderm caudal to first 7-9 somites. In the absence of somite formation, an ectopic tubular structure which displays both cellular and molecular characteristics of presumptive CNS tissue is
30 formed. Several lines of evidences suggest that the neural tube was formed ectopically. First, transverse sections of Wnt-3a mutant embryos at an early somite stage indicated that cells delaminating from and ingressing through the primitive streak form an
35 epithelial cell layer that contribute to an ectopic tube

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under the primitive ectoderm in the primitive streak region. Second, the notochord contacts the ventral but not the dorsal neural tube, suggesting that the ventral (ectopic) neural tube had already formed at the time when
5 the notochord was laid down. Third, by the analysis of serial transverse sections of several 8.5 and 9.5 d.p.c. Wnt-3a mutant embryos, it is apparent that the ectopic neural tube is not continuous with the original dorsal neural tube suggesting an independent origin.

10 The appearance of the ectopic neural tube correlates with the disappearance of the paraxial mesoderm precursors in Wnt-3a mutant embryos. This correlation suggests that the absence of Wnt-3a signaling in the primitive ectoderm of the primitive streak may
15 lead to presumptive somitic mesoderm cells to adopting, neural cell fate. That is, a neural fate may be a "default" state for cells which normally give rise to both mesodermal and neural derivatives.

The results described herein indicate that in the
20 normal primitive ectoderm, where Wnt-3a is expressed, undifferentiated cells can differentiate into both neural and somitic mesoderm cell lineages. At early somite stages, cells in the anterior primitive streak generate mostly somitic mesoderm, while cells in the posterior
25 streak gives rise to mostly lateral mesoderm. In contrast, primitive ectoderm adjacent to the anterior primitive streak contributes mainly to somitic mesoderm and neuroectoderm, suggesting that these two cell types might arise from the same cell population. The data
30 indicate that Wnt-3a signaling regulates cell fate specification between somitic mesoderm and neural lineages in the normal mouse embryo.

Although Wnt-3a is expressed in the anterior streak in regions which gives rise to somitic mesoderm,
35 it is also expressed in more posterior regions which

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generate lateral and ventral mesoderm. Thus, expression is not restricted to paraxial mesoderm precursors. Wnt-3a may establish a competence to respond to a paraxial mesoderm inducing signal, rather than itself directly inducing paraxial mesodermal cell fates. This competence may be broadly distributed within the streak.

Example 3: Wnt-1 signaling and mid-brain development

Expression of En-1 in the developing midbrain of Wnt-1 null embryos is sufficient to rescue midbrain and interior hindbrain development. In the mouse, Wnt-1 and Engrailed-1 (En-1) are first expressed in the presumptive midbrain, from 8.0 days post coitum (d.p.c.) and continue to be expressed, together with En-2, in overlapping patterns during midbrain development. In Wnt-1^{-/-} (Wnt-1-15 null) embryos, En-1 and En-2 expression is initiated normally, but subsequently both domains of En expression are lost, which is concomitant with a failure of midbrain and anterior hindbrain development.

En-1 was expressed from the transgene WEXPZ-En-1 in a pattern similar to that of endogenous Wnt-1 gene. To assess whether En-1 was able to rescue the Wnt-1-null phenotype, embryos from matings of Wnt-1^{+/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ males with Wnt-1^{+/-} females were collected at 14.5 d.p.c., when the Wnt-1^{-/-} phenotype can easily be scored morphologically. The genotype was subsequently determined by southern blotting. Wnt-1^{+/-} and Wnt-1^{+/-} embryos with or without WEXPZ-En-1 appeared to be wild-type (n = 112) whereas all Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos (n = 12) displayed the Wnt-1^{-/-} phenotype. In Wnt-1^{+/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos, 7 out of 17 appeared superficially wildtype, 8 out of 17 were partially rescued and only 2 out of 17 were similar to Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos.

To characterize brain development in greater detail, a minimum of four embryos from each category were

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sectioned for histological analysis. All Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos lacked the midbrain and cerebellum. In contrast, in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos that were scored as wild-type, the midbrain and cerebellum appeared similar to those of wild-type embryos. In partially rescued embryos, only the posterior midbrain and a slightly reduced cerebellum were apparent. The absence of rescue in some cases, and partial rescue in others, may reflect influences of the genetic background or variations in the levels of En-1 expressed from the transgene.

To characterize the development of the midbrain in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos further, the expression of several genes normally transcribed in this region was examined at 10.5 d.p.c. Pax-5 is expressed in a broad domain at the midbrain-hindbrain junction, but this domain is missing in Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos. In Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos, Pax-5 expression was detected in a pattern similar to that of the wild-type embryos. Wnt-1 and Fgf-8 are normally expressed in adjacent rings of cells just anterior and posterior to the midbrain-hindbrain junction, respectively. Fgf8 signalling is involved in midbrain development. In Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos, both rings of expressing cells are absent. In contrast, both Wnt-1 and Fgf-8 were expressed in sharp rings of cells in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos despite the fact that no morphologically obvious midbrain-hindbrain junction was apparent. These results indicate that Wnt-1 signaling at this later stage may not play a direct role in regulating Fgf-8 expression in adjacent cells. En gene expression was also restored in the mid-hindbrain region of Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos outside the area where the transgene is expressed.

In all the rescued embryos, the expression domains of Pax-5, Fgf-8, En, and, in a few cases, Wnt-1 were

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slightly reduced relative to wild-type littermates (18 out

41 Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos expressed one of the markers examined, of these at least half were

5 substantially rescued). One likely explanation is that rescued embryos have a smaller population of midbrain cells than wild-type siblings because when Wnt-1 and En-1 expression is initiated, Wnt-1 mRNA transcription is patchy, whereas En genes are expressed more uniformly in
10 presumptive midbrain cells. Thus, in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos, where En-1 is not uniformly expressed in all presumptive midbrain cells, only those cells that express En-1 at this early stage may contribute to midbrain development. As En-1 expression in the midbrain restores
15 Fgf-8, Pax-5 and En expression in the anterior hindbrain, and subsequently cerebellum development in Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos, the data suggest that a midbrain-derived signal other than Wnt-1 is necessary for anterior hindbrain development.

20 To assess whether expression of En-1 was sufficient to rescue the viability of Wnt-1^{-/-} mice (pups are born but die within 24 h) pups were genotyped at 10 days post partum (n = 68). No live Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ mice were obtained indicating that En-1 was
25 insufficient to rescue the Wnt-1-null phenotype completely. Further analysis indicated that between 14.5 and 18.5 d.p.c., brains of Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos deteriorate, indicating that there may be additional functions of Wnt-1 signaling that cannot be replaced by
30 En-1. This conclusion is supported by analysis of two cranial motor nerves, III (oculomotor) and IV (trochlear), which normally develop adjacent to Wnt-1-expressing cells in the ventral midbrain. Each of these fail to develop in Wnt-1^{-/-} embryos. Similarly, neither
35 nerve forms in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺ embryos which have

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global restoration of midbrain development. In contrast,
a second ventral population, tyrosine-hydroxylase-
expressing neurons (catecholaminergic neurons) of the
substantia nigra, are rescued in Wnt-1^{-/-}, WEXPZ-En-1⁺
5 embryos.

These data demonstrate that, in the absence of a
Wnt-1 signal, expression of En-1 from the Wnt-1 enhancer
is sufficient to substantially rescue early midbrain and
anterior hindbrain development, and suggest that a major
10 role of Wnt-1 signalling in the mammalian brain is to
maintain En expression.

Other embodiments are within the following claims.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: President and Fellows of Harvard College
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: INDUCTION OF NEURONAL REGENERATION
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 11
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
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 - (B) STREET: 225 Franklin Street
 - (C) CITY: Boston
 - (D) STATE: MA
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 02110-2804
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: Windows 95
 - (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0b
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: PCT/US98/-----
 - (B) FILING DATE: 30-APR-1998
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
 - (B) FILING DATE:
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
- (A) NAME: Freeman, John W.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 29,066
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 00246/222WO1
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
- (A) TELEPHONE: 617/542-5070
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 - (C) TELEX: 200154

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 370 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

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Arg Trp Trp Gly Ile Val Asn Val Ala Ser Ser Thr Asn Leu Leu Thr
35 40 45
Asp Ser Lys Ser Leu Gln Leu Val Leu Glu Pro Ser Leu Gln Leu Leu
50 55 60
Ser Arg Lys Gln Arg Arg Leu Ile Arg Gln Asn Pro Gly Ile Leu His

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Phe	Arg	Asn	Arg	Arg	Trp	Asn	Cys	Pro	Thr	Ala	Pro	Gly	Pro	His	Leu
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Ala	Ile	Thr	Ser	Ala	Gly	Val	Thr	His	Ser	Val	Ala	Arg	Ser	Cys	Ser
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			260					265					270		
Arg	Leu	Glu	Pro	Glu	Asp	Pro	Ala	His	Lys	Pro	Pro	Ser	Pro	His	Asp
	275					280						285			
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	290					295					300				
Leu	Gly	Thr	Ala	Gly	Thr	Ala	Gly	Arg	Ala	Cys	Asn	Ser	Ser	Ser	Pro
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Ala	Leu	Asp	Gly	Cys	Glu	Leu	Leu	Cys	Cys	Gly	Arg	Gly	His	Arg	Thr
			325						330					335	
Arg	Thr	Gln	Arg	Val	Thr	Glu	Arg	Cys	Asn	Cys	Thr	Phe	His	Trp	Cys
			340					345					350		
Cys	His	Val	Ser	Cys	Arg	Asn	Cys	Thr	His	Thr	Arg	Val	Leu	His	Glu
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Cys	Leu														
	370														

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 360 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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Thr	Gly	Gly	Ser	Ser	Arg	Val	Met	Cys	Asp	Asn	Val	Pro	Gly	Leu	Val
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	50					55					60				
Ile	Ser	Gln	Gly	Val	Ala	Glu	Trp	Thr	Ala	Glu	Cys	Gln	His	Gln	Phe
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Arg	Gln	His	Arg	Trp	Asn	Cys	Asn	Thr	Leu	Asp	Arg	Asp	His	Ser	Leu

- 38 -

				85					90					95			
Phe	Gly	Arg	Val	Leu	Leu	Arg	Ser	Ser	Arg	Glu	Ser	Ala	Phe	Val	Tyr		
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Ala	Ile	Ser	Ser	Ala	Gly	Val	Val	Phe	Ala	Ile	Thr	Arg	Ala	Cys	Ser		
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Gln	Gly	Glu	Val	Lys	Ser	Cys	Ser	Cys	Asp	Pro	Lys	Lys	Met	Gly	Ser		
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Ala	Lys	Asp	Ser	Lys	Gly	Ile	Phe	Asp	Trp	Gly	Gly	Cys	Ser	Asp	Asn		
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	195						200					205					
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	210					215					220						
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Ala	Ile	Gln	Val	Val	Met	Asn	Gln	Asp	Gly	Thr	Gly	Phe	Thr	Val	Ala		
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		260						265					270				
Asn	Ser	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Cys	Ile	Arg	Asp	Arg	Glu	Ala	Gly	Ser	Leu	Gly		
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Thr	Ala	Gly	Arg	Val	Cys	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ser	Arg	Gly	Met	Asp	Ser	Cys		
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Glu	Val	Met	Cys	Cys	Gly	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Asp	Thr	Ser	His	Val	Thr	Arg		
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 352 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

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Val	Pro	Lys	Gln	Leu	Arg	Phe	Cys	Arg	Asn	Tyr	Val	Glu	Ile	Met	Pro		
	50					55					60						
Ser	Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	Val	Lys	Ala	Gly	Ile	Gln	Glu	Cys	Gln	His	Gln		
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Phe	Arg	Gly	Arg	Arg	Trp	Asn	Cys	Thr	Thr	Val	Ser	Asn	Ser	Leu	Ala		
			85						90					95			
Ile	Phe	Gly	Pro	Val	Leu	Asp	Lys	Ala	Thr	Arg	Glu	Ser	Ala	Phe	Val		
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Phe	Gly	Gly	Met	Val	Ser	Arg	Glu	Phe	Ala	Asp	Ala	Arg	Glu	Asn	Arg
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Pro	Asp	Ala	Arg	Ser	Ala	Met	Asn	Arg	His	Asn	Asn	Glu	Ala	Gly	Arg
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Gln	Ala	Ile	Ala	Ser	His	Met	His	Leu	Lys	Cys	Lys	Cys	His	Gly	Leu
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	210					215					220				
Arg	Thr	Ile	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu	Lys	Asp	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu
225					230					235					240
Met	Val	Val	Glu	Lys	His	Arg	Glu	Ser	Arg	Gly	Trp	Val	Glu	Thr	Leu
			245						250					255	
Arg	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Thr	Tyr	Phe	Lys	Val	Pro	Thr	Glu	Arg	Asp	Leu	Val
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Tyr	Tyr	Glu	Ala	Ser	Pro	Asn	Phe	Cys	Glu	Pro	Asn	Pro	Glu	Thr	Gly
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Ser	Phe	Gly	Thr	Arg	Asp	Arg	Thr	Cys	Asn	Val	Ser	Ser	His	Gly	Ile
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Asp	Gly	Cys	Asp	Leu	Leu	Cys	Cys	Gly	Arg	Gly	His	Asn	Ala	Arg	Thr
305					310					315					320
Glu	Arg	Arg	Arg	Glu	Lys	Cys	His	Cys	Val	Phe	His	Trp	Cys	Cys	Tyr
			325						330					335	
Val	Ser	Cys	Gln	Glu	Cys	Thr	Arg	Val	Tyr	Asp	Val	His	Thr	Cys	Lys
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(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met 1	Asn	Arg	Lys	Ala 5	Leu	Arg	Cys	Leu	Gly 10	His	Leu	Phe	Leu	Ser 15	Leu
Gly	Met	Val	Cys 20	Leu	Arg	Ile	Gly	Gly 25	Phe	Ser	Ser	Val	Val 30	Ala	Leu
Gly	Ala	Thr 35	Ile	Ile	Cys	Asn	Lys 40	Ile	Pro	Gly	Leu	Ala 45	Pro	Arg	Gln
Arg	Ala 50	Ile	Cys	Gln	Ser	Arg 55	Pro	Asp	Ala	Ile	Ile 60	Val	Ile	Gly	Glu
Gly 65	Ser	Gln	Met	Gly	Leu 70	Asp	Glu	Cys	Gln	Phe 75	Gln	Phe	Arg	Asn	Gly 80
Arg	Trp	Asn	Cys 85	Ser	Ala	Leu	Gly	Glu	Arg 90	Thr	Val	Phe	Gly	Lys 95	Glu
Leu	Lys	Val	Gly 100	Ser	Arg	Asp	Gly	Ala 105	Phe	Thr	Tyr	Ala	Ile 110	Ile	Ala
Ala	Gly	Val	Ala 115	His	Ala	Ile	Thr 120	Ala	Ala	Cys	Thr	His	Gly	Asn	Leu
Ser	Asp 130	Cys	Gly	Cys	Asp	Lys 135	Glu	Lys	Gln	Gly	Gln 140	Tyr	His	Arg	Asp
Glu 145	Gly	Trp	Lys	Trp	Gly 150	Gly	Cys	Ser	Ala	Asp 155	Ile	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile 160
Gly	Phe	Ala	Lys 165	Val	Phe	Val	Asp	Ala	Arg 170	Glu	Ile	Lys	Gln	Asn	Ala 175

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Arg Thr Leu Met Asn Leu His Asn Asn Glu Ala Gly Arg Lys Ile Leu
      180      185      190
Glu Glu Asn Met Lys Leu Glu Cys Lys Cys His Gly Val Ser Gly Ser
      195      200      205
Cys Thr Thr Lys Thr Cys Trp Thr Thr Leu Pro Gln Phe Arg Glu Leu
      210      215      220
Gly Tyr Val Leu Lys Asp Lys Tyr Asn Glu Ala Val His Val Glu Pro
      225      230      235      240
Val Arg Ala Ser Arg Asn Lys Arg Pro Thr Phe Leu Lys Ile Lys Lys
      245      250      255
Pro Leu Ser Tyr Arg Lys Pro Met Asp Thr Asp Leu Val Tyr Ile Glu
      260      265      270
Lys Ser Pro Asn Tyr Cys Glu Glu Asp Pro Val Thr Gly Ser Val Gly
      275      280      285
Thr Gln Gly Arg Ala Cys Asn Lys Thr Ala Pro Gln Ala Ser Gly Cys
      290      295      300
Asp Leu Met Cys Cys Gly Arg Gly Tyr Asn Thr His Gln Tyr Ala Arg
      305      310      315      320
Val Trp Gln Cys Asn Cys Lys Phe His Trp Cys Cys Tyr Val Lys Cys
      325      330      335
Asn Thr Cys Ser Glu Arg Thr Glu Met Tyr Thr Cys Lys
      340      345

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 124 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

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Gly Val Ser Gly Ser Cys Thr Thr Lys Thr Cys Trp Thr Thr Leu Pro
 1      5      10      15
Lys Phe Arg Glu Val Gly His Leu Leu Lys Glu Lys Tyr Asn Ala Ala
      20      25      30
Val Gln Val Glu Val Val Arg Ala Ser Arg Leu Arg Gln Pro Thr Phe
      35      40      45
Leu Arg Ile Lys Gln Leu Arg Ser Tyr Gln Lys Pro Met Glu Thr Asp
      50      55      60
Leu Val Tyr Ile Glu Lys Ser Pro Asn Tyr Cys Glu Glu Asp Ala Ala
      65      70      75      80
Thr Gly Ser Val Gly Thr Gln Gly Arg Ile Cys Asn Arg Thr Ser Pro
      85      90      95
Gly Ala Asp Gly Cys Asp Thr Met Cys Cys Gly Arg Gly Tyr Asn Thr
      100      105      110
His Gln Tyr Thr Lys Val Trp Gln Cys Asn Cys Lys
      115      120

```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 365 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

```

Met Ala Gly Ser Ala Met Ser Ser Lys Phe Phe Leu Val Ala Leu Ala

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1				5				10					15		
Ile	Phe	Phe	Ser 20	Phe	Ala	Gln	Val	Val 25	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn 30	Ser	Trp	Trp
Ser	Leu	Gly 35	Met	Asn	Asn	Pro	Val 40	Gln	Met	Ser	Glu	Val 45	Tyr	Ile	Ile
Gly	Ala	Gln	Pro	Leu	Cys	Ser 55	Gln	Leu	Ala	Gly	Leu 60	Ser	Gln	Gly	Gln
Lys 65	Lys	Leu	Cys	His	Leu 70	Tyr	Gln	Asp	His	Met 75	Gln	Tyr	Ile	Gly	Gln 80
Gly	Ala	Lys	Thr	Gly 85	Ile	Lys	Glu	Cys	Gln	Tyr 90	Gln	Phe	Arg	His	Arg
Arg	Trp	Asn	Cys 100	Ser	Thr	Val	Asp	Asn 105	Thr	Ser	Val	Phe	Gly 110	Arg	Val
Met	Gln	Ile 115	Gly	Ser	Arg	Glu	Thr 120	Ala	Phe	Thr	Tyr	Ala 125	Val	Ser	Ala
Ala	Gly 130	Val	Val	Asn	Ala	Met 135	Ser	Arg	Ala	Cys	Arg 140	Glu	Gly	Glu	Leu
Ser 145	Thr	Cys	Gly	Cys	Ser 150	Arg	Ala	Ala	Arg	Pro 155	Lys	Asp	Leu	Pro	Arg 160
Asp	Trp	Leu	Trp	Gly 165	Gly	Cys	Gly	Asp	Asn 170	Ile	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Tyr	Arg 175
Phe	Ala	Lys 180	Glu	Phe	Val	Asp	Ala 185	Arg	Glu	Arg	Glu	Arg 190	Ile	His	Ala
Lys	Gly	Ser 195	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Ala	Arg 200	Ile	Leu	Met	Asn 205	Leu	His	Asn	Asn
Glu	Ala 210	Gly	Arg	Arg	Thr	Val 215	Tyr	Asn	Leu	Ala	Asp 220	Val	Ala	Cys	Lys
Cys 225	His	Gly	Val	Ser	Gly 230	Ser	Cys	Ser	Leu	Lys 235	Thr	Cys	Trp	Leu	Gln 240
Leu	Ala	Asp	Phe 245	Arg	Lys	Val	Gly	Asp	Ala 250	Leu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Tyr 255	Asp
Ser	Ala	Ala	Ala 260	Met	Arg	Leu	Asn	Ser 265	Arg	Gly	Lys	Leu	Val 270	Gln	Val
Asn	Ser	Arg 275	Phe	Asn	Ser	Pro	Thr 280	Thr	Gln	Asp	Leu	Val 285	Tyr	Ile	Asp
Pro	Ser 290	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Cys	Val	Arg 295	Asn	Glu	Ser	Thr 300	Gly	Ser	Leu	Gly
Thr 305	Gln	Gly	Arg	Leu	Cys 310	Asn	Lys	Thr	Ser	Glu 315	Gly	Met	Asp	Gly	Cys 320
Glu	Leu	Met	Cys	Cys 325	Gly	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Asp 330	Gln	Phe	Lys	Thr	Val 335	Gln
Thr	Glu	Arg	Cys 340	His	Cys	Lys	Phe 345	His	Trp	Cys	Cys	Tyr 350	Val	Lys	Cys
Lys	Lys	Cys 355	Thr	Glu	Ile	Val	Asp 360	Gln	Phe	Val	Cys	Lys 365			

60 ATGTATGTAT GTATGTATGT ATGTATGTAT ACGTGCCTGC ACCTGTGTGT GCTTGGTGTC
AGTGGGGCTC AGACATCACC TGATTCCCTG GAACTGGAGT TACAGGTGGC TATAAGCCAC
120

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CACTTGGGTG CTGAGAACAG AGTCCGGGCC TCTGGCAGAG CAGTCAGTGC TTTTAGCCAC
180
TGAGCCACTC TCATCCCCC AATTATGTTT ATCTTGAGTT GGGCAGGTAC GGTGGCGGAA
240
TAGGCCTGTA ATCCCAGCAG TCACTGGACC ATCATGGGTT CTACATATTA AACCTTTATG
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TTAGGTAGGG TCACACAGCA AGATCCGGTC ACAAACCAG CAACAACAAA AACCAAAAGG
360
AGCCAGCTTC TTCCCACAAG CATTCTTTCC CTCAGGTCTT CAGCTCCATC TGACAGCTAC
420
TCGGCTGGTG GTCCTATCCT TTCTGAGCCT AGTTGCCAGA GAAACAAGCC CGGTTTCATCT
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540
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600
ACACACACAC ACACACACAC ACACACACAC TCATGCACCC ACCTGCAAAC ACAATTGCAG
660
CCTTCTGGAC GTCTCCTGTC ACAGCCCCAC CTCCTTCCTG ATACACTGCG TTAAGTGGTG
720
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840
CCCTCAGAAC ACATGTACAC TTTGACTTAA TCTCACGGGT GACACACCGA CGCTTACACT
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960
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1080
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1140
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CGCGTGTTGG GGAGGCAATC CAGGCTGCAA ACAGGTTGTC CCCAGCGCAT TGTCCCCGCG
1260
CCCCCTGGCG GATGCTGGTC CCCGACGGGC TCCGGACGCG CAGAAGAGTG AGGCCGGCGC
1320
GCGTGGGAGG CCATCCCAAG GGGAGGGGTC GGCGGCCAGT GCAGACCTGG AGGCCGGGCC
1380
ACCGGCAGG GGGCGGGGGT GAGCCCCGAC GGTTAGCCTG TCAGCTCTTT GCTCAGACCG
1440
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1560
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1740
CAGAACCGCA GCACAGAACC AGCAAGGCCA GGCAGGCCAT GGGGCTCTGG GCGCTGCTGC
1800
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1860
CCAACAGTAG TGGCCGATGG TGGAAGTGA GCTAGTACGG GGTCCGCCAC TTGTCCTGGG
1920
GCAAAGAGCC AGGCACGGGC CTTACCCAGC TCCCACGCTG TGGGGATCAC CAACCTACAG
1980

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2040
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2100
CATTTAATAC GACCCCGTTT CTGCTGAGCA ACAGGTCCCA ACCTCGCTGT GGTGGGTGCT
2160
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2280
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2340
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2400
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2460
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2520
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2580
CCTGCACAGC GTGAGTGGAG GGCTCCAGAG CGCTGTGCGA GAGTGCAAAT GGCAATTCCG
2640
AAACCGCCGC TGGAACTGCC CCACTGCTCC GGGGCCCCAC CTCTTCGGCA AGATCGTCAA
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2760
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2820
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2880
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2940
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3060
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3300
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3480
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3540
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3660
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3780
GACTTGCTGG CGTGGAGCAG AGTCTGGCCG AATGTCCCTA TCTCAGCGGG CCATTTTGCA
3840

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 3900
 GTGACCCGGG TGGGGTGGGG GTGGGGAAGT ATGGGTGGTG GTTCGTGGGA TGTTGGCTTT
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 4080
 GGCTGCCCAC GCTGCGCGCT GTGGGCGACG TGCTGCGCGA CCGCTTCGAC GGCGCCTCCC
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 4500
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 4680
 GGGCCCTGAC CCAGCCTACC TCCCTCCCTC TTTGAGGGAG ACTCCTTTTG CACTGCCCCC
 4740
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 4800
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 4860
 CTTTCTTTGT CTCTCGGGTC CCTATAGGTC CCTTGAGTTC TCTAACCAGC ACCTCTGGGG
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 5340
 TCCACTGTAG CTATTAGTGG CTCCTCGCCC CCACCAATGT AGTATCTTCC TCTGAGGAAT
 5400
 AAAATATCTA TTTTATCAA CGACTCTGGT CCTTGAATCC AGAACACAGC ATGGCTTCCA
 5460
 ACGTCTCTT CCCTTCCAAT GGAATTGCTT CTCTTCTCAT AGCCAAACAA AAGAGATAGA
 5520
 GTTGTGAAG ATCTCTTTTC CAGGGCCTGA GCAAGGACCC TGAGATCCTG ACCCTTGGAT
 5580
 GACCCTAAAT GAGACCAACT AGGGATC
 5607

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

- 45 -

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2301 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

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120
CATCGTTTGA AACTTTATCA GCGAGTCGCC ACTCGTCGCA GGACCGAGCG GGGGGCGGGG
180
GCGCGGCGAG GCGGCGGCCG TGACGAGGCG CTCCCGGAGC TGAGCGCTTC TGCTCTGGGC
240
ACGCATGGCG CCCGCACACG GAGTCTGACC TGATGCAGAC GCAAGGGGGT TAATATGAAC
300
GCCCCTCTCG GTGGAATCTG GCTCTGGCTC CCTCTGCTCT TGACCTGGCT CACCCCCGAG
360
GTCAACTCTT CATGGTGGTA CATGAGAGCT ACAGGTGGCT CCTCCAGGGT GATGTGCGAT
420
AATGTGCCAG GCCTGGTGAG CAGCCAGCGG CAGCTGTGTC ACCGACATCC AGATGTGATG
480
CGTGCCATTA GCCAGGGCGT GGCCGAGTGG ACAGCAGAAT GCCAGCACCA GTTCCGCCAG
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780
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900
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GCCATGGCCG ACTTCAGGAA AACGGGCGAT TATCTCTGGA GGAAGTACAA TGGGGCCATC
1020
CAGGTGGTCA TGAACCAGGA TGGCACAGGT TTCACTGTGG CTAACGAGAG GTTTAAGAAG
1080
CCAACGAAAA ATGACCTCGT GTATTTTGAG AATTCTCCAG ACTACTGTAT CAGGGACCGA
1140
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1200
AGCTGTGAAG TCATGTGCTG TGGGAGAGGC TACGACACCT CCCATGTCAC CCGGATGACC
1260
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1320
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1380
CAGCAGGCGT CACCATCCAC CTTCCCTTCT ACAAGGACTC CATTGGATCT GCAAGAACAC
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1500
GAAGCCCCCT CTTCCCTCCCT GGGGGCCCCA GGATGGGGGG CCACACGCTG CACCTAAAGC
1560
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1680
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1740
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1800
TCAGATGGAA CAGTAAAGAA AGCAGAATCA ACTGCCCTG ACTTAACTTT AACTTTTGAA
1860
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1920
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1980
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2040
TATGGTGTGT TGTATCTTTG TAAGAGCAAA AGCCTCAGAA AGGGATTGCT TTGCATTACT
2100
GTCCCTTGA TATAAAAAAT CTTTAGGGAA TGAGAGTTCC TTCTCACTTA GAATCTGAAG
2160
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2280
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2301

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2814 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

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180
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240
AGCCCATCT CTGTGCCAGC ATCCCAGGCC TGGTACCGAA GCAGCTGCGC TTCTGCAGGA
300
ACTACGTGGA GATCATGCC AGCGTGGCTG AGGGTGTCAGCGGCATC CAGGAGTGCC
360
AGCACCAGTT CCGAGGCCGG CGTTGGAAC GCACCACCGT CAGCAACAGC CTGGCCATCT
420
TTGGCCCTGT TCTGGACAAA GCCACCCGGG AGTCAGCCTT TGTCCATGCC ATCGCCTCCG
480
CTGGAGTAGC TTTCGCAGTG ACACGCTCCT GTGCAGAGGG ATCAGCTGCT ATCTGTGGGT
540
GCAGCAGCCG CCTCCAGGGC TCCCCAGGCG AGGGCTGGAA GTGGGGCGGC TGTAGTGAGG
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ACATTGAATT TGGAGGAATG GTCTCTCGGG AGTTTGCCGA TGCCAGGGAG AACCGGCCGG
660
ATGCCCCGCTC TGCCATGAAC CGTCACAACA ATGAGGCTGG GCGCCAGGCC ATCGCCAGTC
720

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GGTGGTCGCA GCCGGACTTC CGCACCATCG GGGATTTCTT CAAGGACAAG TATGACAGTG
840
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900
CACGTTACAC GTACTTCAAG GTGCCGACAG AACGCGACCT GGTCTACTAC GAGGCCTCAC
960
CCAACCTCTG CGAACCTAAC CCCGAAACCG GCTCCTTCGG GACGCGTGAC CGCACCTGCA
1020
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1080
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1140
GCTGCCAGGA GTGCACACGT GTCTATGACG TGCACACCTG CAAGTAGGAG AGCTCCTAAC
1200
ACGGGAGCAG GGTTCAATCC GAGGGGCAAG GTTCCTACCT GGGGGCGGGG TTCCTACTTG
1260
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1320
GTCTCATACC TAAGGACCCG GTTCTGCCT TCAGCCTGGG CTCCTATTTG GGATCTGGGT
1380
TCCTTTTTAG GGGAGAAGCT CCTGTCTGGG ATACGGGTTT CTGCCCAGAG GTGGGGCTCC
1440
ACTTGGGGAT GGAATTCCAA TTTGGGCCGG AAGTCCTACC TCAATGGCTT GGAATCCTCT
1500
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1560
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1620
AGATACATGA GAGGGTGCTT CAGGGTGGGC CCTATTTGGG CTTGAGGATC CCGTGGGGGC
1680
GGGGCTTAC CCCGACTGGG TGGAACTTTT GGAGACCCCC TTCCACTGGG GCAAGGCTTC
1740
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1860
CAAGCCTCAT CTGCGCAGAG CAGGATCTCC TGGCAGAATG AGGCATGGAG AAGAACTCAG
1920
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1980
CTTCTTCAAG GGCTTTCCTA GTCTCCTTGG CAGAGCTTTC CTGAGGAAGA TTTGCAGTCC
2040
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2100
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2160
AGCCTGCATC CGCTCTGACA CTTAATACTC AGATCTCCCG GGAAACCCAG CTCATCCGGT
2220
CCGTGATGTC CATGCCCCAA ATGCCTCAGA GATGTTGCCT CACTTTGAGT TGTATGAACT
2280
TCGGAGACAT GGGGACACAG TCAAGCCGCA GAGCCAGGGT TGTTTCAGGA CCCATCTGAT
2340
TCCCCAGAGC CTGCTGTTGA GGCAATGGTC ACCAGATCCG TTGGCCACCA CCCTGTCCCG
2400
AGCTTCTCTA GTGTCTGTCT GGCCTGGAAG TGAGGTGCTA CATAAGCCCC ATCTGCCACA
2460
AGAGCTTCTT GATTGGTACC ACTGTGAACC GTCCCTCCCC CTCCAGACAG GGGAGGGGAT
2520
GTGGCCATAC AGGAGTGTGC CCGGAGAGCG CGGAAAGAGG AAGAGAGGCT GCACACGCGT
2580

GGTGACTGAC TGTCTTCTGC CTGGAACTTT GCGTTCGCGC TTGTAACTTT ATTTTCAATG
2640
CTGCTATATC CACCCACCAC TGGATTTAGA CAAAAGTGAT TTTCTTTTTT TTTTTTCTT
2700
TTCTTTCTAT GAAAGAAATT ATTTTAGTTT ATAGTATGTT TGTTTCAAAT AATGGGGAAA
2760
GTAAAAAGAG AGAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAAA
2814

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

[illegible]

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

60	TGTAAGTGCC	ACGGGCTGTC	GGGCAGCTGC	GAGGTGAAGA	CATGCTGGTG	GTGCAACCC
120	GACTTCCGCG	CCATCGGTGA	CTTCCTCAAG	GACAAGTACG	ACAGCGCCTC	GGAGATGGTG
180	GTGGAGAAGC	ACCGGGAGTC	CCGCGGCTGG	GTGGAGACCC	TGCGGCCGCG	CTACACCTAC
240	TTCAAGGTGC	CCACGGAGCG	CGACCTGGTC	TACTACGAGG	CCTCGCCCAA	CTTCTGCGAG
300	CCCAACCCTG	AGACGGGCTC	CTTCGGCAGC	CGCGACCGCA	CCTGCAACGT	CAGCTCGCAC

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GGCATCGACG GCTGCGACCT GCTGTGCTGC GGCCGCGGCC ACAACGCGCG AGCGGAGCGG
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CGCCGGGAGA AGTGCCGCTG CGTGTTTCAC TGGTGCTGT
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